

Navigating the details

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS THWAITES

Selecting new windows can be a challenging task. Most of us look through windows every day, but we rarely take the time to look at them.

And yet, the details surrounding your windows – the sash, the casing, the trim – can make an enormous difference in the look of your home or cottage.

It's not just the profile that needs to match the rest of the home décor, the colouring does too.

Showroom experience

"When we designed our showroom in Bala, we really looked for ways to represent exactly how the windows and doors can look in a home or cottage," says Ken Patterson, who along with his wife Jo Ann owns Lakeland Windows and Doors.

That included consulting with builders and designers who work extensively on cottages in Muskoka, to ensure that the colours and materials in the showroom would reflect their real-world applications. That resulted in a space with plenty of beadboard, a coffered ceiling, LED pot lights and a white-on-white colour scheme.

"We used lots of traditional trim details, and painted the space in Cloud White, which is very popular right now. Then we installed a lot of full-sized windows and doors rather than small models. We wanted people to be able to walk in and see a true representation of how windows and doors could look in their cottage," Ken explains.

White is king at the moment, but it's certainly not the only option when it comes to window trim. "Pella does some fantastic pre-finishing in the factory," says Ken. "They can be pre-painted or pre-stained, or left raw and finished on-site."

Designer series

Regardless of the colour of your windows, there's also the question of privacy.

Pella's Designer Series of windows features integrated blinds that are contained within the window itself, sandwiched between two layers of glass.

"They come in pleated or venetian, in a range of colours," says Ken, "and they can be controlled manually or by remote."

The profiles of the Designer windows match Pella's other series, meaning that cottages can have identical windows

throughout the building, and only have internal blinds in some key locations. "You might want internal blinds on the ensuite – particularly if it's off a shared deck – then install more conventional window treatments, or no blinds at all on the rest of the cottage."

Internal blinds are also very popular in glass doors, because they allow you to open or close the doors without having to deal with external blinds.

"It's all about exploring the options," says Ken.

The Lakeland Windows showroom is available by appointment. **DS**

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